



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

# Indiana Crop & Weather Report

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## CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JULY 29

### AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Many areas of the state received significant rain during the week, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. However, conditions remain dry in some areas because of minimal precipitation in recent weeks, especially in some of the eastern regions of the state. Major crops and pastures have shown marginal improvement during the last couple of weeks. Spraying activities and scouting of fields continued, but many farmers took time off to visit county fairs. Baling of straw and second cutting of hay crops are winding up. Livestock producers are very concerned about hay shortage. Baling of hay has taken place on some CRP acreage released under FSA's emergency haying and grazing provisions.

### FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 5.3 **days suitable for field work**. **Corn condition** improved and is rated 50 percent good to excellent compared with 67 percent last year at this time. Ninety-four percent of the **corn** acreage has **silked** compared with 85 percent last year and 82 percent for the 5-year average. Twenty-seven percent of the corn acreage is in the **dough** stage compared with 20 percent last year and 19 percent for the average. Eighty-four percent of the **soybean** acreage is **blooming** compared with 72 percent last year and 73 percent for the average. Thirty-nine percent of the soybean acreage is **setting pods** compared with 27 percent last year and 32 percent for the average. **Soybean condition** improved and is rated 46 percent good to excellent compared with 66 percent last year at this time.

**Winter wheat harvest** is virtually complete. The second cutting of **alfalfa hay** is 95 percent complete compared with 93 percent last year and 89 percent for the average. Major activities during the week included: hauling grain, cleaning out grain bins, maintaining irrigation equipment, scouting fields, spraying, cutting and baling hay, mowing roadsides and taking care of livestock.

### LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

**Pasture condition** is rated 0% excellent, 12% good, 29% fair, 33% poor, and 26% very poor. Livestock continues to benefit from the cooler temperatures.

### CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Silked	94	85	85	82
Corn in Dough	27	11	20	19
Corn in Dent	1	NA	2	2
Soybeans Blooming	84	70	72	73
Soybeans Setting Pods	39	19	27	32
Alfalfa Second Cutting	95	90	93	89

### CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	6	13	31	42	8
Soybean	6	13	35	40	6
Pasture	26	33	29	12	0

### SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
<b>Topsoil</b>			
Very Short	16	20	1
Short	36	35	9
Adequate	47	45	80
Surplus	1	0	10
<b>Subsoil</b>			
Very Short	28	28	1
Short	39	39	11
Adequate	33	33	79
Surplus	0	0	9
<b>Days Suitable</b>	5.3	5.0	5.0

### CONTACT INFORMATION

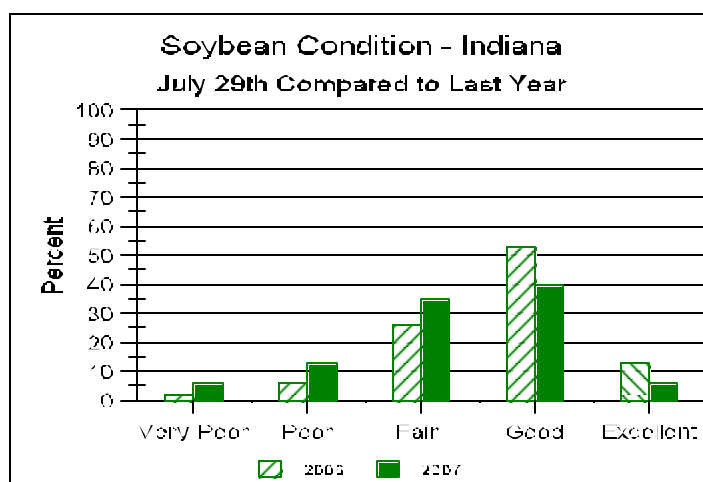
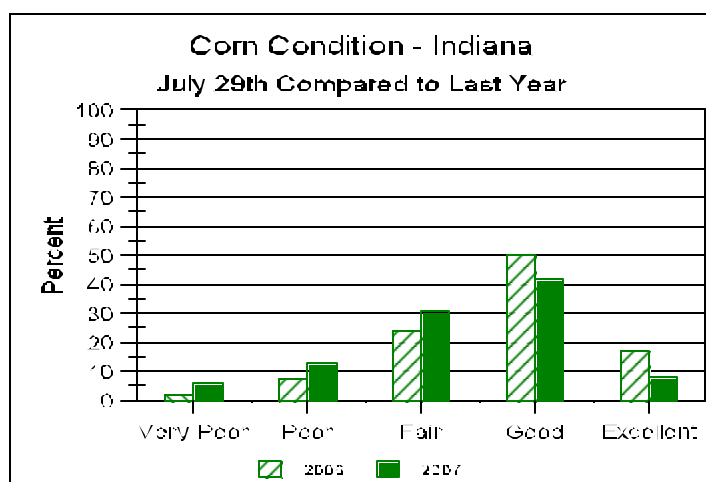
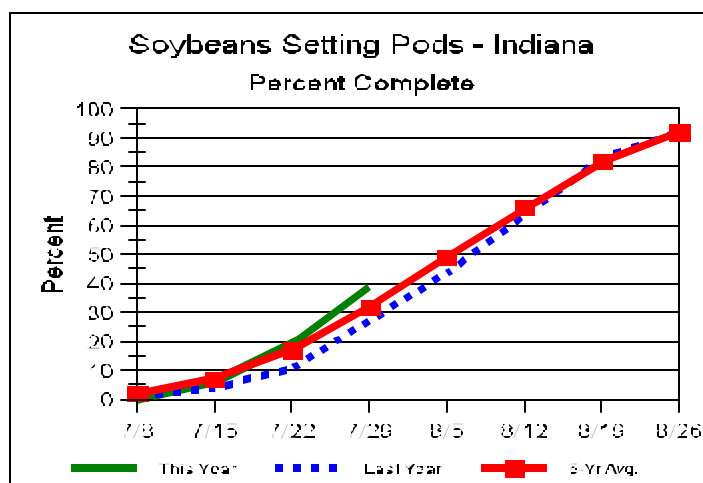
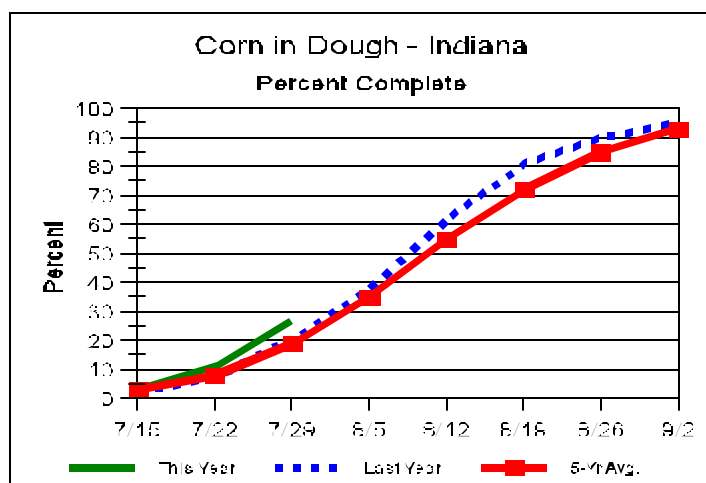
--Greg Preston, Director

--Andy Higgins, Agricultural Statistician

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[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Indiana/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/)

# Crop Progress



## Other Agricultural Comments And News

### No Surprise, Spider Mites Responding to Dry Conditions

- Spider mites can now be found in droughty soybean fields.
- Stressed areas of fields will show damage first.
- Consider many factors before treating spider mites.
- Ground applied applications, because crop dusters are booked, can actually do a better job because of the increased carrier used.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor (<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>), as of July 10, 80% of Indiana is abnormally dry, with 32% of that in the first stages of drought. Some area saw some relief with rains this week, but the rains unfortunately missed most of the driest counties in the north-eastern part of the state. It should come as no surprise that twospotted spider mites have begun to move into and colonize thirsty soybeans. Foliage damage from spider mite feeding is expressed initially as subtle stippling, which may progress to a bronzing and necrosis should

dry conditions persist and mites are left unchecked. Bronzed foliage is irreversible, meaning the damage is done!

Before considering control, it is very important that spider mites are identified as the source of yellowish or bronzed plants in a field. There are many other diseases, pathogens and nutrient deficiencies that cause a similar appearance of foliage. To confirm the presence of mites, shake some discolored soybean leaves over a white piece of paper. Watch for small dark specks moving about on the paper. Also look for very tiny, fine webbing on the undersides of the discolored leaves. Once spider mites have been positively identified in the damaged areas of the field, it is essential that the portions of the entire field be scouted to determine the range of infestation – spider mites are very patchy in colonizing fields and are often restricted to borders. Sample in at least five different areas of the field and determine how far the spider mites have moved into the field from the grassy borders by using the “leaf-shake” method.

(Continued on Page 4)

# Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday July 29, 2007

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air			Precip.		Avg		April 1, 2007 thru				
	Temperature			Total		4 in		July 29, 2007				
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Soil	Precipitation	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
<b>Northwest (1)</b>												
Chalmers_5W	85	53	71	-4	0.88	2		13.05	-1.89	37	1879	+46
Francesville	83	52	70	-3	1.55	1		14.86	-0.15	40	1792	+109
Valparaiso_AP_I	84	55	72	-2	0.52	1		7.86	-7.94	29	1869	+222
Wanatah	83	51	70	-3	1.12	1	78	13.08	-2.27	38	1729	+156
Winamac	83	55	70	-3	4.00	1	75	16.84	+1.83	40	1809	+126
<b>North Central (2)</b>												
Plymouth	83	55	71	-4	2.70	1		15.83	+0.11	43	1754	-1
South_Bend	83	58	72	-2	2.41	3		13.21	-1.52	33	1910	+280
Young_America	86	54	71	-3	1.71	3		11.66	-2.80	41	1897	+178
<b>Northeast (3)</b>												
Columbia_City	83	52	71	-2	0.86	3	71	9.86	-4.92	43	1749	+194
Fort_Wayne	85	54	72	-3	0.66	2		9.53	-4.11	41	1926	+215
<b>West Central (4)</b>												
Greencastle	84	52	70	-7	0.56	2		13.63	-3.45	38	1862	-84
Perrysville	87	52	72	-3	0.54	2	79	12.32	-3.99	36	2083	+261
Spencer_Ag	86	55	72	-3	0.43	1		18.67	+1.20	39	1927	+100
Terre_Haute_AFB	84	53	71	-5	0.56	1		15.16	-1.39	39	2079	+136
W_Lafayette_6NW	85	55	70	-4	0.89	3	77	14.19	-0.81	41	1937	+218
<b>Central (5)</b>												
Eagle_Creek_AP	86	59	74	-2	1.02	3		10.34	-5.04	42	2178	+254
Greenfield	85	58	71	-4	0.54	3		10.84	-6.02	47	1974	+137
Indianapolis_AP	86	59	74	-2	0.95	3		9.63	-5.75	42	2213	+289
Indianapolis_SE	84	54	71	-5	0.85	2		13.00	-2.99	43	1973	+69
Tipton_Ag	84	48	70	-4	0.72	3	74	11.53	-3.63	44	1834	+169
<b>East Central (6)</b>												
Farmland	83	46	69	-4	0.28	2	73	10.65	-4.37	43	1797	+177
New_Castle	83	53	70	-4	1.81	2		11.77	-4.72	35	1838	+183
<b>Southwest (7)</b>												
Evansville	91	56	76	-3	0.33	1		11.03	-5.03	37	2432	+172
Freelandville	87	59	73	-4	0.40	1		10.72	-5.90	39	2207	+196
Shoals	89	52	72	-4	0.99	2		14.94	-3.04	37	2049	+116
Stendal	92	56	75	-3	0.51	2		12.90	-4.87	39	2443	+329
Vincennes_5NE	91	58	74	-3	0.05	1		13.57	-3.05	40	2293	+282
<b>South Central (8)</b>												
Leavenworth	88	59	73	-3	0.86	2		14.19	-3.98	42	2226	+298
Oolitic	87	53	72	-4	0.57	1	76	13.30	-3.74	35	1988	+145
Tell_City	88	59	75	-4	1.29	1		16.84	-1.21	29	2402	+259
<b>Southeast (9)</b>												
Brookville	86	56	73	-2	0.53	3		11.46	-4.93	33	2061	+326
Greensburg	85	55	72	-3	0.55	3		13.66	-2.83	39	2109	+308
Scottsburg	87	52	72	-5	0.55	1		15.99	-0.86	38	2152	+158

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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## No Surprise, Spider Mites Responding to Dry Conditions (Continued)

Stressed plants actually provide a more nutritious feast for spider mites than healthy plants do. Thus they thrive and quickly colonize large areas or whole fields. The best spider mite control is to eliminate plant stress, which is easier said than done. Sandy, high clay, or compacted soils will exacerbate moisture stress in plants, with or without the presence of spider mites. Other stresses on soybean include pests such as soybean cyst nematode or nutritional imbalances, such as manganese deficiency. Obviously the best plant stress reliever under dry conditions is rain. Significant rain doesn't control spider mites but helps the soybean plant become more vigorous and healthy, which in turn makes the "juices" of the plant less nutritious to the mites, and makes mites less likely to reproduce as quickly.

The most severe damage occurs when the infestation starts in the early stages of plant growth and builds throughout the season (extended drought). Before applying controls carefully consider that, depending when damage is noted, multiple insecticide/miticide applications may be necessary. This is because surviving spider mites are able to repopulate a field much more quickly than their natural predators, which are usually also wiped out by these chemical applications.

If extensive leaf discoloration is apparent, spider mites are positively identified as the culprit, and hot, dry conditions are expected to persist, it is recommended that a control be considered.

If a control is warranted, two pesticides are recommended for use. These include dimethoate (Dimethoate 400 and 4 EC) and chlorpyrifos (Lorsban 4E and generics). Dimethoate is the most efficacious of these compounds for mite control. If soybean aphid is also present in the field, then chlorpyrifos would be a good choice to suppress both pests. Neither of these products will control spider mite eggs, however, and each will provide a maximum of 7 days of residual activity. Proper placement of these pesticides is the key to successful control results. Nozzle pressures of 40 psi with fine to medium droplet size and 30-40 gallons of water per acre for ground application helps distribute the pesticide throughout the foliage.

Christian Krupke, John Obermeyer, and Larry Bledsoe, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054. This article also contains some photos, which can be viewed at: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/pestcrop/2007/issue17/index.html>, pages 1 and 2.

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